(c) in what manner the VRCs would be useful to villagers; and

(d) whether the villagers would be able to use them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A small number of VRCs are being set up in Tamil Nadu and Kerala as a pilot project. After evaluating the performance of these VRCs, further plans will be made.

(c) and (d) The VRCs would be useful to the villagers by way of helping them to avail different community services and information in the areas of tele-education, tele-medicine, management of natural resources and natural disaster and local weather. In addition, it is planned to impart training to the villagers to make full use of the centres.

Building of space station in mid air

492. SHRI V NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first manned private spacecraft is scheduled to rocket from California; and

(b) whether Indian Space Research Organisation is collaborating with any country for building space station in the mid air?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. 'SpaceShipOne' a winged, bullet shaped manned spacecraft developed by a US Company was launched on its first civilian sub-orbital flight on June 21, 2004 from California.

(b) No, Sir.